

# In the United States Court of Federal Claims

## OFFICE OF SPECIAL MASTERS

No. 18-975V

UNPUBLISHED

PAULA D. TYSON,

Petitioner,

v.

SECRETARY OF HEALTH AND  
HUMAN SERVICES,

Respondent.

Chief Special Master Corcoran

Filed: July 20, 2020

Special Processing Unit (SPU);  
Damages Decision Based on Proffer;  
Influenza (Flu) Vaccine; Shoulder  
Injury Related to Vaccine  
Administration (SIRVA)

*Amy A. Senerth, Muller Brazil, LLP, Dresher, PA, for petitioner.*

*Traci R. Patton, U.S. Department of Justice, Washington, DC, for respondent.*

### **DECISION AWARDING DAMAGES<sup>1</sup>**

On July 9, 2018, Paula D. Tyson filed a petition for compensation under the National Vaccine Injury Compensation Program, 42 U.S.C. §300aa-10, *et seq.*,<sup>2</sup> (the “Vaccine Act”). Petitioner alleges that she suffered right shoulder injuries related to vaccine administration (SIRVA) as a result of an influenza vaccine administered on February 8, 2017. Petition at 1. Petitioner further alleges that she received the vaccine in the United States, her injuries and sequelae lasted more than six months, no action has been filed for Petitioner’s vaccine-related injury, nor has she received any compensation in the form of award or settlement for her vaccine-related injuries. Petition at 1, 3. The case was assigned to the Special Processing Unit of the Office of Special Masters.

---

<sup>1</sup> Because this unpublished decision contains a reasoned explanation for the action in this case, I am required to post it on the United States Court of Federal Claims’ website in accordance with the E-Government Act of 2002. 44 U.S.C. § 3501 note (2012) (Federal Management and Promotion of Electronic Government Services). **This means the decision will be available to anyone with access to the internet.** In accordance with Vaccine Rule 18(b), Petitioner has 14 days to identify and move to redact medical or other information, the disclosure of which would constitute an unwarranted invasion of privacy. If, upon review, I agree that the identified material fits within this definition, I will redact such material from public access.

<sup>2</sup> National Childhood Vaccine Injury Act of 1986, Pub. L. No. 99-660, 100 Stat. 3755. Hereinafter, for ease of citation, all “§” references to the Vaccine Act will be to the pertinent subparagraph of 42 U.S.C. § 300aa (2012).

On January 13, 2020, a ruling on entitlement was issued, finding Petitioner entitled to compensation for SIRVA. On July 17, 2020, Respondent filed a proffer on award of compensation ("Proffer") indicating Petitioner should be awarded \$81,211.46. Proffer at 2. In the Proffer, Respondent represented that Petitioner agrees with the proffered award. *Id.* Based on the record as a whole, I find that Petitioner is entitled to an award as stated in the Proffer.

Pursuant to the terms stated in the attached Proffer, **I award Petitioner a lump sum payment of \$81,211.46 in the form of a check payable to Petitioner.** This amount represents compensation for all damages that would be available under § 15(a).

The clerk of the court is directed to enter judgment in accordance with this decision.<sup>3</sup>

**IT IS SO ORDERED.**

**s/Brian H. Corcoran**  
Brian H. Corcoran  
Chief Special Master

---

<sup>3</sup> Pursuant to Vaccine Rule 11(a), entry of judgment can be expedited by the parties' joint filing of notice renouncing the right to seek review.

**IN THE UNITED STATES COURT OF FEDERAL CLAIMS  
OFFICE OF SPECIAL MASTERS**

<hr/>	)	
PAULA D. TYSON,	)	
	)	
Petitioner,	)	
v.	)	No. 18-975V
	)	Chief Special Master Corcoran
SECRETARY OF HEALTH AND HUMAN	)	ECF
SERVICES,	)	
	)	
Respondent.	)	
<hr/>	)	

**RESPONDENT’S PROFFER ON AWARD OF COMPENSATION**

On October 25, 2019, Chief Special Master Corcoran issued a Findings of Fact, finding that the onset of petitioner’s right shoulder injury related to vaccine administration (“SIRVA”) occurred within 48 hours of vaccination. ECF No. 25 at 2, 5. On January 9, 2020, the Secretary of Health and Human Services (“respondent”) filed an Amended Vaccine Rule 4(c) Report advising that, in light of Chief Special Master Corcoran’s Findings of Fact ruling that the onset of petitioner’s right arm pain occurred within 48 hours of vaccination, and the medical evidence submitted in this case, respondent did not dispute that petitioner had satisfied all legal prerequisites for compensation under the Vaccine Act. ECF No. 30 at 3-4. Thereafter, on January 13, 2020, Chief Special Master Corcoran entered a Ruling on Entitlement, finding petitioner, Paula D. Tyson, entitled to Vaccine Act compensation for her Table SIRVA injury. ECF No. 31.

## **I. Amount of Compensation**

Respondent now proffers that, based on the Chief Special Master's entitlement decision and the evidence of record, petitioner should be awarded \$81,211.46.<sup>1</sup> This amount represents all elements of compensation to which petitioner would be entitled under 42 U.S.C. § 300aa-15(a). Petitioner agrees.

## **II. Form of the Award**

The parties recommend that the compensation provided to petitioner should be made as described below, and request that the Chief Special Master's damages decision and the Court's judgment award the following:<sup>2</sup>

Respondent recommends that the compensation provided to petitioner should be made Through a lump sum of **\$81,211.46** in the form of a check payable to petitioner. This amount represents compensation for all damages that would be available under 42 U.S.C. § 300aa-15(a). Petitioner agrees.

Petitioner is a competent adult. Evidence of guardianship is not required in this case.

Respectfully submitted,

ETHAN P. DAVIS  
Acting Assistant Attorney General

---

<sup>1</sup> The parties have no objection to the amount of the proffered award of damages. Assuming the Chief Special Master issues a damages decision in conformity with this proffer, the parties waive their right to seek review of such damages decision. However, respondent reserves his right, pursuant to 42 U.S.C. § 300aa-12(e), to seek review of the Chief Special Master's January 13, 2020, entitlement decision.

<sup>2</sup> Should petitioner die prior to entry of judgment, the parties reserve the right to move the Court for appropriate relief. In particular, respondent would oppose any award for future medical expenses, future pain and suffering, and future lost wages.

C. SALVATORE D’ALESSIO  
Acting Director  
Torts Branch, Civil Division

CATHARINE E. REEVES  
Deputy Director  
Torts Branch, Civil Division

ALEXIS B. BABCOCK  
Assistant Director  
Torts Branch, Civil Division

s/ Traci R. Patton  
TRACI R. PATTON  
Senior Trial Attorney  
Torts Branch, Civil Division  
U.S. Department of Justice  
P.O. Box 146  
Benjamin Franklin Station  
Washington, D.C. 20044-0146  
Telephone: (202) 353-1589

Dated: July 17, 2020